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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Patent Application of: :  
Nils Virving :  
: International Application No.: Group Art Unit: N/A  
PCT/SE04/001215 :  
: International Filing Date: Examiner: Not Yet  
August 20, 2004 : Assigned  
: For: REFINING ELEMENT :  
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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to initiation of the prosecution of the above-identified pending U.S. patent application, the following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted.